

polyethylene component and (ii) an unmodified polyethylene component and (B) consists of a polar resin layer or metal layer. There is no teaching at all regarding grafting of the A (ii) component or the grafting of layer B. Nowhere does the reference teach a blend of two different polymers, both of which are grafted. Thus, the reference by definition cannot anticipate the claimed invention.

Furthermore, although not necessary for the disposition of the anticipation issue, the reference also fails to suggest the claimed invention. As stated above, nowhere does the reference teach grafting of a blend of two different polymers. Component (i) is only taught to be a single "graft modified ethylene resin." See page 4, lines 5-6. No equivalent of Applicants' component (A2) is taught or suggested. Furthermore, the reference also teaches that "layer (A) consists of a mixture of the two ethylene copolymers (i) and (ii)," see page 5, lines 1-2, and that "in the present invention, the layer (A) is composed of the graft-modified ethylene resin (i) or a mixture of it with the ethylene resin (ii)," see page 10, lines 26-28. Thus, the reference does not even suggest the addition of any other polymers into the layer (A). It certainly does not suggest grafting another polymer together with the A (i) polymer. The reference therefore also does not suggest the presently claimed invention.

### **The Rejection under 35 USC § 103**

Claim 16 was rejected as allegedly unpatentable over Nagano in view of Adur et al. (4460745).

All the arguments from above are incorporated herein. Claim 16 is a dependent claim, and thus, if claim 10 is found allowable, no further arguments are necessary for the allowance of claim 16. Applicants at this time therefore chose not to present any further arguments.

Reconsideration of all the rejections is respectfully and courteously requested. Applicants believe that the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art, and that the claims are in a form ready for allowance, but if there are any residual issues which can be expeditiously resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone Counsel at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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